

NSC Briefing
Second Draft

Military, OGI
28 June 1955

Recent Soviet Bloc Military Developments

I. Some Soviet Bloc military activities since early April 1955 have flaunted Soviet armed strength, probably in an effort to show that the Bloc approaches SUMMIT conference in July from a position of strength, while others have apparently been designed to support Soviet diplomatic policy of "reasonableness" in international affairs.

A. Display of strength has included:

1. Fourteen "practise fly-by's" in the Moscow area since 1 April, displaying latest Soviet bomber and fighter aircraft. (Note apparent postponement of annual Aviation Day show from June until unannounced date in July).
2. Publicity build-up and announcement of Warsaw Treaty of 14 May, professing "anti-NATO" aspect of Bloc military coalition.

B. Display of "reasonableness" may include:

1. Preparations for withdrawal of Soviet troops from Austria, [redacted]

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DOCUMENT NO. 36
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. X
[] DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 2010

2. Well-publicized withdrawal of major Soviet units from Port Arthur [redacted]

DATE: 14 June 88 REVIEWER: [redacted]

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3. Continued postponement of formal creation of East German Army in 14 May "anti-NATO" treaty.

II. Shooting of US reconnaissance aircraft in Bering Sea area on 22 June does not clearly fit one or the other of above patterns, but Molotov's unusual expression of "regret" and offer of part payment indicates desire to minimize incident and demonstrate Soviet "reasonableness"

III. Other recent Bloc military developments, not publicly advertised, show that despite current disarmament proposals and campaign to relax international tension, Soviets continue strenuous efforts to maximize Bloc fighting capabilities.

A. Improvement of offensive air power, including:

1. Continued rapid re-equipment of Soviet long range units with jet bombers (Spring '55)

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3. Addition of first jet light bombers to three Satellites (since 1 January)

4. Doubling Soviet jet light bomber strength in East Germany (April).

B. Further development of air defense capabilities, including:

1. introduction first all-weather

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fighters in Soviet units in East Germany (April, June)

2. up-gunning of ground anti-aircraft artillery units in East Europe
(Spring.

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D. Reorganization, strengthening and coordination of Bloc ground units in East Europe, including:

1. Arrival of nearly 1,000 new-model medium tanks for Soviet divisions in Germany, apparently increasing Soviet medium tank strength there by about one-fourth (since 1 January).

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